

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ROBERT SHAFER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation and the citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Robert Shafer, Second Lieutenant, United States Army, of Dallas, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Shafer enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and served until 1950 as an engineering and construction officer. Shafer was deployed to New Guinea, the Ryuku Islands, and Okinawa during World War II, helping build infrastructure and airfields in support of the war effort. Shafer and his men were routinely subject to Japanese bombing runs and sniper fire. He later served during the Korean War as an operations officer and platoon training officer. His decorations include the World War II Victory Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the American Theater Medal.

After leaving the Army, Mr. Shafer has brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. Shafer worked as a Boy Scouts of America leader, a leader within his church, and has helped organize and assist with his church's food pantry.

Mr. Shafer's career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. EPHRAIM WILLIAMS'S RETIREMENT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Ephraim Williams on his retirement as the Senior Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church. Dr. Williams has served as Senior Pastor for 49 years and his congregation is eternally grateful.

Dr. Ephraim Williams was born in Summit, Mississippi. He pursued his education in Mississippi, Illinois, and California. He was called to ministry in 1964 and was ordained in 1966 by his Pastor and mentor, Pastor Joseph Williams. After, he enrolled in seminary and trained at several pristine institutions. He received his Doctor of Divinity from Conroe Normal and Industrial College in 1979 and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from California State University, Sacramento in 2017.

Dr. Williams leads one of the largest congregations in Sacramento and has been in-

strumental in the church's growth in members, in programs and in facilities. His leadership and impact are not limited to the church, but also are to be found in the greater community. He has provided pivotal leadership in revitalizing Oak Park, establishing supportive programs, and feeding hundreds of people each year. Additionally, Dr. Williams has served on the boards of numerous programs dedicated to the wellbeing of Sacramento residents and has been a leader with various religious organizations.

All of Dr. Williams efforts have not gone unnoticed. He has received numerous awards and accolades from national and local leaders. He has been invited to the White House by two former presidents, President William Clinton and President Barack Obama.

Dr. Williams' wife of 55 years, Carrie Sue Martin-Williams, passed on May 6, 2009. They are the parents of two children, Gwen and Ephraim "Butch," Jr.; four grandchildren, Nikiya, Tairena, Tenaya (deceased) and Marshall; and ten great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the legacy of we Dr. Williams for his service on behalf of his congregation and the Sacramento region.

ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN, AIR FORCE BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. MCGEE

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay final tribute to retired Air Force Brigadier General Charles E. McGee, who died peacefully in his sleep January 16, 2022 at his Bethesda, Maryland home at the age of 102 years old.

McGee was born in Cleveland, Ohio on December 7, 1919. He was among eight remaining Tuskegee Airmen combat pilots out of the 355 that were assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group during WWII in Europe. In addition, he flew combat missions in Korea and Vietnam accumulating a total of 6,308 flying hours and 409 fighter combat missions during his 30-year active-duty military career.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army October 26, 1942, while studying engineering at the University of Illinois, and earned his pilot's wings June 30, 1943. By February 1944, he was stationed in Italy with the 302nd Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group, flying his first mission on February 14. He flew the Bell P-39Q Airacobra, Republic P-47D Thunderbolt and the North American P-51 Mustang fighter aircraft, escorting Consolidated B-24 Liberator and Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress bombers over Germany, Austria, and the Balkans.

During missions, he also engaged in low level attacks over enemy airfields and rail yards. On August 24, 1944, McGee, while escorting B-17s over Czechoslovakia, engaged

a formation of Luftwaffe fighters and shot down a Focke Wulf 190. McGee flew a total of 137 combat missions. He was promoted to Captain and returned to the United States on December 1, 1944. He became an instructor pilot on the North American B-25 Mitchell bombers at Tuskegee Army Air Field that another unit of the Tuskegee Airmen was readying to deploy to the Pacific Theater. He remained there until 1946, when the base was closed.

After World War II, McGee was sent to Lockbourne Air Field, Columbus, Ohio, to become the base operation and training officer. Later in 1948, he was posted to an Aircraft Maintenance Technical Course and was assigned to an air refueling unit. When the Korean War broke out, he flew North American P-51 Mustangs, later redesignated by the Air Force as F-51s, again in the 67th Fighter Bomber Squadron, completing 100 missions, and being promoted to Major. McGee continued to serve with the United States Air Force as it was reconstituted as a fighter pilot, flying the Lockheed F-80 Shooting Star and the Northrop F-89 Scorpion aircraft.

During the Vietnam War, as a Lieutenant Colonel, McGee flew 172 combat missions in a McDonnell RF-4 photo reconnaissance aircraft. His plane was hit by enemy fire twice—during the Korean conflict and again years later near Laos, both times on his right wing. After a series of other assignments, both in the United States as well as in Italy and Germany, and promotion to colonel, McGee retired on January 31, 1973. He ended his military career with 6,308 flying hours.

McGee was recognized for his combat and military service with a number of awards including: Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Air Medal with 25 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, Hellenic Republic World War II Commemorative Medal, along with related campaign and service ribbons.

After his military service, McGee held many prestigious functional and honorary positions in the field of aviation. In 1978, at the age of 58, he completed the college degree at Columbia College in Kansas City, over thirty years after his initial enrollment at the University of Illinois. Though interrupted by World War II, attaining a college degree had been a lifelong goal. McGee served as the Director of the Kansas City airport and as a member of the Aviation Advisory Commission.

For over 30 years, he was an ambassador of the Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated (TAI), a nonprofit, giving numerous public addresses. He received numerous accolades, including the National Aeronautical Association's "Elder Statesman of Aviation." McGee served two terms as National President of Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated.

In 2011, he was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 approved the honorary promotion

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